

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 are amended; claims 7 and 8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and claims 9 and 10 are added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takada, U.S. Application Publication No. 2002/0027932 in view of Oka, U.S. Patent No. 5,289,479. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action asserts that Takada discloses a laser apparatus capable of emitting laser beams of a plurality of different wavelengths including a solid state laser medium 11 which emits light of a plurality of different peak wavelengths, a resonance optical system which resonates the emitted light of the plurality of peak wavelengths and converts respective light to oscillate the laser beams of the plurality of different wavelengths. The Office Action further asserts that Oka teaches that in a second harmonic generating system it is advantageous to include a 1/4 wave plate. The Office Action then asserts that it would be obvious to include the 1/4 wave plate of Oka in the laser apparatus of Takada because it causes the harmonic output to be output in a stable condition.

Claim 1 recites a 1/4 wave plate constructed of a combination of a quartz plate and a magnesium fluoride plate to have a property of providing a uniform phase difference to the light of the plurality of different peak wavelengths to be converted. Claim 1 further recites the 1/4 wave plate being applied with an antireflective coating to enhance transmittance to the light having the plurality of different peak wavelengths to be converted.

To the contrary, Takada does not teach or suggest the 1/4 wave plate. Similarly, Oka teaches only a 1/4 plate corresponding to a specific desired wavelength. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that neither Takada nor Oka teaches or suggests a 1/4 wave plate for a wide

band constructed of a combination of a quartz plate and a magnesium fluoride plate to have a property of providing a uniform phase difference to light of a plurality of different peak wavelengths, as recited in amended claim 1.

Further, neither Takada nor Oka teaches or suggests a 1/4 wave plate being applied with an anti-reflective coating to enhance transmittance to the light of the plurality of different peak wavelengths, as recited in amended claim 1.

Hale et al. (Applied Optics December 15, 1988) discloses a technique of forming a 1/4 wave plate from a quartz plate and a magnesium fluoride plate. However, Hale does not teach or suggest that the 1/4 wave plate is applied with an anti-reflective coating to enhance transmittance to light of a plurality of different peak wavelengths, as recited in amended claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 is respectfully requested. Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1, and Applicants therefore submit that claims 2-6 are patentable for at least their dependence on amended claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejections of amended claims 2-6 is respectfully requested. Claims 7 and 8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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